	Proceeding	State Court	Appellate Court	Reopened	(specify)	Litigation	iv Ji
ZT.	CAUSE OF ACT	CION (Cite the U.	S. Civil Statute under which you are filin	ng and write brief stateme	ent of cause.		

Automobile Uninsured Motorist Claim

Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity.)

\_ AMOUNT \_

Tutonionio omisarca motoriat Ciami
Bad Faith Denial of UM Coverage

VII. REQUESTED IN	CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION	<b>DEMAND \$</b> \$75,000 +	CHECK YES only if d	emanded in	complaint:
COMPLAINT:	 UNDER F.R.C.P. 23		JURY DEMAND:	X Yes	□ No
VIII. RELATED CASE(S)					

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF A ECORD

IF ANY

(See instructions): JUDGE

DOCKET

NUMBER		 
	•	

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT # \_\_\_\_

DATE

APPLYING IFP

JUDGE\_

MAG. JUDGE

# IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA

HARRELL MINOR, JR.,	Plaintiff,	<ul> <li>Summons</li> <li>(Issued pursuant to Rule 4 of</li> <li>the Federal Rules of Civil</li> <li>Procedure or other appropriate</li> <li>law.)</li> </ul>
<b>v.</b>		)
USAGENCIES, INC. , AFFIRMATIVE INSURAI DIONNE PATTERSON,	NCE COMPANY,	) CIVIL ACTION CASE NUMBER: ) )
	Defendants.	)
TO DEFENDANT	Affirmative Insurance c/o The Corporation C 2000 Interstate Park D Montgomery, AL 3610	Company Prive, Suite 204
You are hereby sumn	noned and required to se	erve upon plaintiff's attorney(s):
	Allwin E. Horn, IV Allwin E. Horn, III 1130 South 22 <sup>nd</sup> Street Birmingham, AL 3520	•
the summons upon you, excl DEFAULT MAY BE TA	usive of the day of serv KEN AGAINST YO	days after service of ice. IF YOU FAIL TO DO SO, JUDGMENT BY U FOR THE RELIEF DEMANDED IN THE UST also be filed with the court.
DATE:	_	SHARON HARRIS, CLERK
		By:
SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR I	RETURN	Deputy Clerk
NOTE: A separate summons prepared for each det		(SEAL OF COURT)
		CLERK, U. S. DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA 1729 5th Avenue North Birmingham, Alabama 35203

Page 3 of 18	Pac	ie 3	of	18
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	RETURN ON SERVICE OF WRIT
I here	by certify and return that on the day of,, I
served this su	ummons together with the complaint as follows:
	By personal service on the defendant at
	By serving a person of suitable age and discretion then residing in the defendant's
	usual place of abode. (Give name and address of person served.)
	By serving an officer, a managing or general agent, or any other agent authorized
	by appointment or by law to receive service of process of the defendant
	corporation, partnership, or unincorporated association. (Give name, capacity and
	address of person served.)
	I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct.
	Date Authorized or Specially Appointed Process Server
Costs of Serv	ice: Service fee: \$ Expenses: miles @cents \$
	TOTAL \$

# IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA

HARRELL MINOR, JR.,	Plaintiff,	<ul> <li>Summons</li> <li>(Issued pursuant to Rule 4 of</li> <li>the Federal Rules of Civil</li> <li>Procedure or other appropriate</li> <li>law.)</li> </ul>
<b>v.</b>		)
USAGENCIES, INC. , AFFIRMATIVE INSURA DIONNE PATTERSON,	NCE COMPANY,	) CIVIL ACTION CASE NUMBER: ) ) )
	Defendants.	ý ,
TO DEFENDANT	USAgencies, Inc. c/o The Corporation C 2000 Interstate Park D Montgomery, AL 3610	rive, Suite 204
You are hereby sum:	moned and required to se	erve upon plaintiff's attorney(s):
	Allwin E. Horn, IV Allwin E. Horn, III 1130 South 22 <sup>nd</sup> Street Birmingham, AL 3520	•
the summons upon you, exc DEFAULT MAY BE TA	clusive of the day of serving AKEN AGAINST YO	upon you, within days after service of ice. IF YOU FAIL TO DO SO, JUDGMENT BY U FOR THE RELIEF DEMANDED IN THE UST also be filed with the court.
DATE:	_	SHARON HARRIS, CLERK
		By:
SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR	RETURN	Deputy Clerk
NOTE: A separate summon prepared for each de		(SEAL OF COURT)
• •		CLERK, U. S. DISTRICT COURT  NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA  1729 5 <sup>th</sup> Avenue North  Birmingham, Alabama 35203

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served this su	mmons together with the complaint as follows:
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	usual place of abode. (Give name and address of person served.)
	By serving an officer, a managing or general agent, or any other agent authorized
u	by appointment or by law to receive service of process of the defendant
	corporation, partnership, or unincorporated association. (Give name, capacity and
	address of person served.)
	I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct.
	Date Authorized or Specially Appointed Process Server
Costs of Serv	ce:         Service fee:         \$           Expenses:
	TOTAL \$

# IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA

HARRELL MINOR, JR.,	Plaintiff,	<ul> <li>Summons</li> <li>(Issued pursuant to Rule 4 of</li> <li>the Federal Rules of Civil</li> <li>Procedure or other appropriate</li> <li>law.)</li> </ul>
<b>v.</b>		)
USAGENCIES, INC. , AFFIRMATIVE INSURA DIONNE PATTERSON,	NCE COMPANY,	) CIVIL ACTION CASE NUMBER: ) )
	Defendants.	)
TO DEFENDANT	Dionne Patterson c/o The Corporation C 2000 Interstate Park I Montgomery, AL 361	Drive, Suite 204
You are hereby sum	moned and required to s	erve upon plaintiff's attorney(s):
	Allwin E. Horn, IV Allwin E. Horn, III 1130 South 22 <sup>nd</sup> Stree Birmingham, AL 3520	
the summons upon you, exc DEFAULT MAY BE TA	lusive of the day of serv  AKEN AGAINST YO	d upon you, within days after service of vice. IF YOU FAIL TO DO SO, JUDGMENT BY OU FOR THE RELIEF DEMANDED IN THE UST also be filed with the court.
DATE:		SHARON HARRIS, CLERK
		By:
SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR	<u>RETURN</u>	Deputy Clerk
NOTE: A separate summon prepared for each de		(SEAL OF COURT)
<b>X X X X X X X X X X</b>		CLERK, U. S. DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA 1729 5th Avenue North Birmingham, Alabama 35203

	RETURN ON SERVICE OF WRIT
I here	by certify and return that on the day of,, I
erved this s	ummons together with the complaint as follows:
	By personal service on the defendant at
	By serving a person of suitable age and discretion then residing in the defendant's
	usual place of abode. (Give name and address of person served.)
	By serving an officer, a managing or general agent, or any other agent authorized by appointment or by law to receive service of process of the defendant corporation, partnership, or unincorporated association. (Give name, capacity and address of person served.)
	I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct.
	Date Authorized or Specially Appointed Process Server
osts of Serv	ice: Service fee: \$ Expenses: miles @ cents \$
	TOTAL \$

# IN THE UNITED STATE DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA SOUTHERN DIVISION

HARRELL MINOR, JR.,	)		
Plaintiff,	) )		
<b>v.</b>	Civil Action Number:		
USAGENCIES, INC.; AFFIRMATIVE INSURANCE COMPANY, DIONNE PATTERSON;	) ) ) )		
Defendants.	ý ·		
COMPLAINT			

## **JURISDICTION**

- 1. The Plaintiff, Harrell Minor, Jr., is a citizen of the State of Alabama and is over the age of nineteen (19) years.
- 2. The Defendant, USAgencies Insurance Company, is a foreign corporation whose principal place of business in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
- 3. The Defendant, Affirmative Insurance Company, is a foreign corporation whose principal place of business in Addison, Texas.
- 4. The Defendant, Dionne Patterson, is an individual citizen of the State of Louisiana.
- 5. Plaintiff's claim for damages exceeds \$75,000.
- 6. This Court maintains jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 1332(a).

#### **FACTS**

- 1. On November 1, 2008, the plaintiff was operating his motorcycle in Tuscaloosa County, Alabama when he was struck by an uninsured motorist. As a result of the accident, the Plaintiff suffered severe injuries to his ankle, foot, leg and other parts of his body requiring him to be hospitalized and undergo several surgeries requiring fixation of instrumentation in said ankle.
- 2. On said date, the Plaintiff was insured under a policy of insurance providing uninsured/underinsured motorist coverage by the named Defendants, Affirmative Insurance Company and USAgencies Management Services, Inc, policy number 3154782.
- 3. Said policy of insurance was contracted for by the Plaintiff's wife, Vanessa P. Minor, the named insured on said policy. At the time of the accident made the basis of this lawsuit, the Plaintiff was an insured under said policy of insurance by contract and operation of state law.
- 4. All premiums had been paid and said contract of insurance was in full force and effect.
- 5. On September 22, 2009, the Plaintiff made a claim for uninsured/underinsured motorist benefits under said policy of insurance, policy number 3154782 with the Defendants.
- 6. On October 13, 2009, the Defendants denied coverage for uninsured/underinsured motorist benefits to the Plaintiff on the grounds the policy of insurance in question provided an exclusion within said policy which excludes coverage to the plaintiff based on the type of vehicle he was operating. The denial letter specifically states:

"We do not provide uninsured motorist coverage for bodily injury sustained by any person:

(a) While occupying, or when struck by, any auto or other motor vehicle owned by an insured person which is not insured for uninsured motorist coverage under this policy.

(e) While occupying or operating a motor vehicle with less than four wheels."

Said denial letter further stated "therefore, since your client was operating a motorcycle that he owns, of which is not listed on his policy, due to the policy exclusion, we find that we must respectfully deny your client's claim." (See USAgencies letter dated October 13, 2009 attached as Exhibit A).

- 7. On October 26, 2009, the Plaintiff forwarded a letter to USA gencies representative, Dionne Patterson, who authored the denial letter providing her a copy of the Alabama Supreme Court case Peachtree Casualty Company Insurance, Inc. v. Sharpton, 768 So. 2d. 368 (Ala. 2000), Peachtree states in pertinent part the exclusion upon which the Defendants denied Plaintiff's claim was void as against public policy as the same exclusion had been deemed void against public policy in the case of *Peachtree*. Plaintiff further pointed out in said letter to the Defendants that the law in the State of Alabama, as was evident by the Peachtree case, was that uninsured/underinsured motorist benefits inures to a person not a vehicle and what vehicle the insured was in or on at the time of the accident is irrelevant to a claim for uninsured/underinsured benefits in the State of Alabama. (See letter of October 26, 2009 attached as Exhibit B).
- 8. On November 3, 2009, the Defendants, by and through their agent, Dionne Patterson, acknowledged receipt of Plaintiff's counsel's letter of October 26, 2009, providing the Peachtree case and citing appropriate state law in Alabama, in which the Defendants advised they were denying the claim and their position stands as they are "still holding to the denial of coverage in reference to this matter." (See USAgencies letter dated November 3, 2009 attached as Exhibit C).
- 9. At all times material to this Complaint, the Defendant Dionne Patterson, was acting in the

line, scope and course of her employment with the Defendants USAgencies Management Services, Inc. and Affirmative Insurance Company.

Document 1

#### **COUNT ONE**

# **Uninsured/Underinsured Motorist Benefits**

- 10. The Plaintiff adopts and realleges all preceding paragraphs and further avers:
- 11. At all time material to this Complaint, the Plaintiff was insured by a policy of insurance afforded by Affirmative Insurance Company, doing business as USAgencies, Inc. Under the policy of insurance at issue, the Defendants have a duty to pay some or all of the insurance benefits available to the Plaintiff as a result of the injuries and damages he sustained in the accident made the basis of this lawsuit.

WHEREFORE, premises considered, the Plaintiff demands judgment of the Defendants in compensatory and punitive damages in excess of the Court's jurisdictional limit.

#### **COUNT TWO**

#### **Breach of Contract**

- 12. The Plaintiff adopts and realleges all preceding paragraphs and further avers:
- 13. At all relevant times a valid and binding contract of insurance herein identified upon which the Plaintiff was an insured existed between the Plaintiff and Defendants.
- 14. The Defendants breached that contract by failing to timely pay uninsured/underinsured motorist benefits and by denying the same without any legal or lawful basis. The Defendant's conduct was systemic and reflected a pattern and practice of acting in violation of law.
- 15. The Plaintiff had performed all conditions, covenants, and promises required to be performed by him under Alabama law or in his part in accordance with the terms and conditions of his contract.

The Defendant's breach of contract directly and proximately caused the Plaintiff to suffer injury and damages as followed:

The plaintiff was denied uninsured/underinsured motorist benefits for which he was entitled; the plaintiff incurred medical expenses and charges for which he is due reimbursement; the plaintiff lost the value of his premiums; the plaintiff suffered emotional distress and mental anguish; the plaintiff has been defrauded.

WHEREFORE, premises considered, the Plaintiff demands judgment of the Defendants in compensatory and punitive damages, plus interest a costs of court.

#### COUNT THREE

#### **Bad Faith**

- 16. The Plaintiff adopts and realleges all preceding paragraphs and further avers:
- 17. The creation of an insurance contract between the Plaintiff and the named Defendants, placed a duty on said Defendants to exercise good faith and fair dealing in performance of its contractual obligation under the terms of the agreement, including the duty to act in good faith when investigating and paying uninsured/underinsured claims under the policy and the duty not to interfere with the Plaintiff's right to receive benefits under the policy in accordance with the laws of the State of Alabama. The Defendants breached a duty by refusing to promptly pay the uninsured/underinsured motorist benefits contracted for and agreed upon in the policy, thereby interfering with the Plaintiff's right to receive the benefits owed under said policy in accordance with the laws of the State of Alabama. At the time of the breach, the Defendants had actual knowledge that there was no reasonably legitimate or arguable or debatable reason, nor any reason open to dispute, which could refuse to provide the Plaintiff the benefits it had agreed to provide in its

contract with the Plaintiff.

- 18. By continuing to delay upon acting upon the Plaintiff's claim, Defendants intentionally failed to even attempt to determine whether a reasonable, arguable or debatable reason exist upon which it may deny the Plaintiff's claim as no investigation was conducted into the matter. The Defendants have interfered with the Plaintiff's right to receive benefits under the policy by refusing to provide benefits contracted for.
- 19. Defendants knew the Plaintiff had relied on the Defendants' representations expressly stated in the policy, that in the event of an accident with or involving an uninsured/underinsured motorist, the Defendants would timely pay benefits to the Plaintiff as set forth in the policy. The Plaintiff relied on these representations to its detriment. The Defendants made the misrepresentations knowingly, intentionally, willfully, wantonly and/or with reckless disregard for the truth. Furthermore, said representations were made within an attempt to induce the Plaintiff to act thereon. The Defendants breached their duty of good faith and fair dealing under the terms of the aforesaid contract negligently, intentionally, willfully, recklessly, and/or in bad faith, failing to determine whether there existed a lawful basis or arguable reason for Defendants to deny full and timely payment of the contracted for benefits provided by the policy. The subject matter of the above reference contract is of such a personal nature that the Defendants, at the time of contracting, could have, should have and did reasonably anticipate that a breach would result in emotional distress damages to the Plaintiff.
- 20. The Defendants aforesaid bad faith directly and proximately caused the Plaintiff to suffer loss and substantial monetary damages, and great mental anguish and emotional distress as a result thereof.

- 21. The Defendants breached there agreement by failing and refusing to pay the uninsured/underinsured motorist benefits owed to the Plaintiff as a result of this accident pursuant to its agreement with the Plaintiff and the policy at issue. The Defendants conduct was systemic and reflected a pattern and practice of acting in violation of the laws of the State of Alabama.
- 22. The Plaintiff suffered damages that were directly and proximately caused by the Defendants breach of the policy of insurance and the Defendants contract with the Plaintiff.

WHEREFORE, premises considered, the Plaintiff demands judgment of the Defendants in compensatory and punitive damages, plus interest a costs of court, to be determined by a struck jury.

#### PLAINTIFF DEMANDS TRIAL BY STRUCK JURY

Plaintiff Attornevs

in E. Horn, IV (ASB-1798-R81-A)

1130 S. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, Suite 4500

Birmingham, AL 35205

(205) 877-8700

Fax (205) 87/7-7330

win E. Horn, III (ASB-8251-076-A)

1130 S. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, Suite 4500

Birmingham, AL 35205

(205) 877-8700

Fax (205) 877-7330

## **Trial Counsel:**

Allwin E. Horn, IV Allwin E. Horn, III

## **DEFENDANTS' ADDRESSES:**

USAgencies c/o The Corporation Company 2000 Interstate Park Drive Suite 204 Montgomery, AL 36109 (Please Serve by Certified Mail)

Affirmative Insurance Company c/o The Corporation Company 2000 Interstate Park Drive Montgomery, AL 36109 (Please serve by Certified Mail)

Dionne Patterson c/o The Corporation Company 2000 Interstate Park Drive Montgomery, AL 36109 (Please serve by Certified Mail)



P.O. Box 98505 Baton Rouge, LA 70884-8 Telephone: (205) 343-9000 www.usagencies.com

October 13, 2009

Allwin E. Horn, IV, P.C. Attorney at Law 1130 South 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, Suite 4500 Birmingham, AL 35205

Claim No.:

369989

Policy No.:

1-3154782-1

Insured:

Vanessa Minor

Claimant: Date of Loss: Harrell Minor, Jr. Nov 01, 2008

Dear Attorney Horn:

Please be advised that we are in receipt of the claim filed against the above referenced policy on behalf of your client Harrell Minor, Jr. It's our understanding that your client was operating a motorcycle that he owns. This motorcycle is not listed on the policy.

Please make reference to your client's Affirmative Insurance Company policy booklet for Insurance, Section C - Uninsured/Underinsured Motorist Coverage, Uninsured Motorists, under Exclusions states:

We do not provide Uninsured Motorist Coverage for bodily injury sustained by any person:

- (a). While occupying, or when struck by, any auto or other motor vehicle owned by an insured person which is not insured for uninsured motorists coverage under this Policy.
- (e). While occupying or using a motor vehicle with less than four wheels.

Therefore, since your client was operating a motorcycle that he owns, of which is not listed on his policy, due to the policy exclusion, we find that we must respectfully deny your client's claim.

Should you have any questions regarding our decision, please call me.

Sincered

Dionn M Patterson

USAgencies Management Services, Inc. on behalf of Affirmative Insurance Company

(205) 343-9000 x-2595

Fax Number: (225) 987-5595

E-Mail: dpatterson@usagencies.com

# EXHIBIT S

## ALLWIN E. HORN, IV, P.C.

ATTORNEY AT LAW
1130 SOUTH 22ND STREET
SUITE 4500
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35205

ALLWIN E. HORN, IV (205) 877-8700 FAX (205) 877-7330 AHORN@ALLWINHORN.COM OF COUNSEL
ALLWIN E. HORN, III

October 26, 2009

Via Facsimile (225) 987-5595 & Certified Mail Dionne Patterson USAgencies PO Box 98505 Baton Rouge, LA 70884

RE: Our Client/Your Insured: Harrell Minor, Jr./Vanessa P. Minor

Claim# 369989 Policy #: 3154782-1 DOA: 11/1/2008

Dear Ms. Patterson:

I am providing you a copy of the case of *Peachtree Casualty Company Insurance, Inc. v Sharpton*, 768 So. 2d. 368 (Ala. 2000) for your review. The exclusion upon which you relied upon to deny Mr. Minor's claim for uninsured motorist benefits is void in the State of Alabama. I am providing you a case directly on point in which this question has been answered by the Alabama Supreme Court. In the State of Alabama uninsured/underinsured motorist coverage inures to the person and is not dependent on which vehicle an otherwise insured person is occupying or riding at the time of the accident. If I do not have a letter from you or some form of admonishment within 30 days stating you will change your position with regards to the basis of your denial I will sue you for Bad Faith. I am enclosing medical records and charges obtained to date. I hereby demand \$200,000 or your policy limits, whichever is less.

Allwin E. Horn, IV

AEHIV/tnm





November 3, 2009

Allwin E. Horn, IV, P.C. Attorney at Law 1130 South 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, Suite 4500 Birmingham, AL 35205

Claim No.:

369989

Policy No.:

1-3154782-1

Insured:

Vanessa Minor

Your Client:

Harrell Minor, Jr./Vanessa P. Minor

DOL:

11/01/2008

#### Dear Attorney Horn:

Please be advised that this letter serves as acknowledgement to your recent correspondence of October 26, 2009. The claim has been reviewed once again and as it stands, we are still holding to the Denial of Coverage in reference to this matter.

Since

Bionne Patterson

USAgencies Management Services, Inc. on behalf of Affirmative Insurance Company

P.O. Box 98505

Baton Rouge, LA 70884-8505 (800) 958-8545, ext: 2595

Fax Number: (225) 987-5595

Email: dpatterson@usagencies.com

Enclosure(s) - Denial Letter